

6 APRIL 2025

With prayer & faith in God we seek to engage with the community - *inside* we enrich & equip: *outside* we give & care.

**A warm welcome from
Rev Sally Letman and
everyone at St Mary's!**





**TODAY'S LINK NEWSLETTER FOR:
6 APRIL to 20 APRIL 2025**

Inside:

Page 3: Worship on the Way;

Page 4: St Mary's celebrates Mothering Sunday

Page 5: Rev Sally's reflection.

Page 8: Evening of fun & friendship - Wine tasting from Jim

Page 14: News from the Pews - What's coming up!

Page 19: John Lennox has more proof of God

Page 23: Hille's Prayer Listing...



Happy Birthday in April to:

1 April Yvonne Rogerson

10 April June Hall

12 April Chris Terry

15 April Christine Wansbury



With thanks to Trevor Bailey





WORSHIP TIMELINE

St Mary's is open for private prayer every day.

2025

4 Apr 10.00am, Capel School, *Easter Service*

6 Apr 9.30am, St John's, *Holy Communion.*

10.45am, St Mary's, *Holy Communion.*

Followed by *Annual Parochial Council Meeting*

9 Apr 10.00am, St Mary's, *Benefice Holy Communion*

13 Apr 9.30am, St John's, *Morning Prayer.*

10.45am, St Mary's, *Palm Sunday*

Holy Communion with baptism of Lillia & Rosie.

16 Apr 10.00am, St Mary's, *Benefice Holy Communion*

17 Apr *Maundy Thursday*

11.00am, *Chrism Service & Bury Cathedral.*

6.30pm, St Mary's, *Agape Meal & stripping of altar..*

Easter Services

18 Apr Good Friday, 9.30am, Walk of Witness led by St Mary's Church starts at Capel Community Church and 11.00am completes at Capel War Memorial.

3.00pm, St Mary's, Stations of the Cross

19 Apr 6.00pm, St Mary's, *Easter Vigil.*

20 Apr *Easter Sunday.*

9.30am, St John's, *Holy Communion.*

10.45am, St Mary's, *Holy Communion.*

Rev Sally & Rev Adrian & *choir*



Fifth Sunday of Lent - Readings

John 12, 1-8. Jesus Anointed at Bethany

Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead.

Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honour. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him.

Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, "Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages."

He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it.

"Leave her alone," Jesus replied. "It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me."



Sally's Reflection

John 12: 1-8

"Heavenly Father, through weak human words, give us grace to hear your true and living Word, Jesus Christ our Lord"

You know me well and know I love a drama. I do love bringing the bible to life, imagining myself as an on looker, imagining myself in the scene.

In the reading today we certainly have drama.

Imagine the scene: a meal, but its tense and awkward; we have all seen dramas set around a dinner table. Perhaps there will be an uninvited guest, or someone will be poisoned. The tension mounts, how is it all going to end?

So, they sit to eat in this tense scene and Mary serves.

We have met the sisters before, in Luke 10, Martha banging the pots and Mary, sitting rapt at Jesus' feet.

They are rounded characters, representing aspects of us all.

Suddenly Mary takes a pound of perfume, lets down her hair and washes Jesus' feet and the strong, sickly perfume fills the air.

What would Martha be thinking? Here Mary goes again, making a show of herself, always having to be the centre of attention. Then Mary lets down her hair, in a sensual way to wipe his feet. How shocking, like a lady hitching her skirts up at a posh dinner party!

Judas, the seemingly pious man, says what all the watching disciples are thinking. What on earth is she doing? Why wasn't this ointment sold to raise money for the poor? It was worth a year's salary, and it could have been given to the poor. John then tells us under breathe that he is actually a crook, taking money from the shared pot of money.



his

At the centre of this tension, amongst these divided allegiances sits Jesus Christ, wanting his friends to eat together in companionship. Challenging Judas' outburst, he makes a strange comment, 'It's all about keeping it for the day of my burial. You will always have the poor with you, but you won't always have me with you.'

The action of Mary is a prophetic statement about the fact that before long, Jesus is going to be buried, and buried so hastily, will there be time for proper anointing?

But doesn't Christ tell us that with the coming of the kingdom, all would be made right, justice and balance would prevail. And here we are, waiting, watching and praying.

So, the stage is set. The actors are poised in the place for the final scenes and yet we see they haven't got their priorities right. Mary is obsessed in the kitchen, fussing and envious; Judas is serving only himself and will ultimately betray the man he supposedly loves with a kiss.

Mary shows the right priority, to worship the Lord; the Lord who will sacrifice himself in order that our priorities become new.

And where are you in the scene?

Are you amongst the disciples who watch on, don't comment or defend but only judge, and yet ultimately run away? Are you the cautious, prudent Judas, always preparing and trying to look after himself and feather his own pocket?

Is it your natural inclination to distance yourself from Jesus when he holds you to account and watches you in the scene?

And Jesus, is in the scene, understanding what is going on, knowing what the outcome will be and what will happen. He knows what the final curtain will mean.



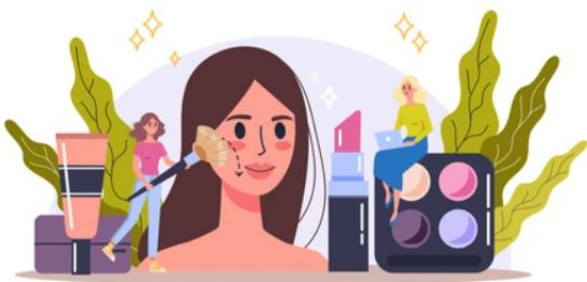
Today is Passiontide: a word derived from Passover. It is the fifth week of Lent, two weeks until Easter, originally an all-night vigil and with the themes of incarnation, suffering, death and resurrection. Now we are beginning our sequence of services; to share in Christ's own journey, from the triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday to the empty tomb on Easter morning. We must be faithful to the collective memory, and we are invited to confession and then

celebration.

We become actors in the story, we walk with Christ and we reflect on our part and our roles in the scenes before us.

We press on as St Paul tells us, 'Toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.'

Amen



SKIN CARE AND

MAKEUP WORKSHOP

Sarah says: *I will be holding a skincare and makeup workshop in the church hall at 2pm on Thursday 24 April. All ladies welcome.*

Enjoy a fun afternoon trying the various products along with a cuppa and cake. If you need a lift to the hall it can be arranged.

For further details call either myself (Sarah Kelland - 07726 489002) or Ondra (310524).





An evening of friendship and laughter celebrating South African wine





Another great wine-tasting evening gets wrapped up - amidst three cheers for Sarah and Jim Kelland whose expertise raised over £760 for the Friends of St Mary's Church.

The Trail this year will take place from Thursday 19 to Sunday 22 June.

As last year we will have a section on the Entry Form for children of Primary School age or below. Nearly all the children who entered last year managed to get them all right so we drew a name out of the hat for the winner of a large bag of sweets, and all the others got a small bag of sweets. Please note, if you want to enter both the Children's and the Main competition, you will have to buy two Entry Forms.

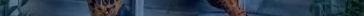
If you have made a Scarecrow in the last couple of years, Mo or I will be contacting you shortly. If you haven't made one before and would like to make one this year, or would just like more information, please contact me on email jim.hill1@live.co.uk (don't miss out the '1') or by text message or phone on 07951 411720.

We will need your Scarecrow name/clue by Friday 23 May latest please, so we have time to prepare the Entry Form and get it printed.



Just a reminder that the Trail is in aid of *The Friends of St Mary's Church*, Registered Charity whose funds are used to repair and improve the structure of the Church, which is the oldest building in Capel.

A secondary but equally important side of the Trail is that it visibly improves our community spirit with residents interacting with each other in a fun and sometimes brain teasing activity. Entry Forms will remain at £2 each.



Last year as well as the more straight forward Scarecrows, we had a Loch Ness Monster, a Racehorse jumping an eight foot high hedge and a T-Rex with one of the head-scratchingest clues ever, so get your thinking caps on and make 2025 another great year. Jim Hill.



NEWS



Mike says: "Has anyone got any left-over hard-board offcuts in their shed that

could be used to make stars for decorating our church next Christmas?"

If so, please call Mike on 01473 310257 and he will arrange to collect it.



A decorative horizontal border consisting of a continuous row of small black heart symbols.

Mary's Church

Many thanks to you all for taking care of me over the last couple of weeks and making me so welcome.

It's been uncomfortable, challenging, exciting and truly wonderful.

Yours is a very special place where the Holy Spirit is so present that anyone who enters is engulfed in the atmosphere.

I've grown from this experience and so enjoyed my time with you.

Fortunately (for me especially) God's not about performance or perfection but hearts of fire to represent Him and His love - and you are **ON FIRE!**

So keep on in your loving service. I will miss St Mary's but I will be back!

Love Lorna xx

And you will be very welcome Rev Lorna - we enjoyed you being with us....

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The Church of England is one step closer to appointing first female Archbishop of Canterbury

The Church of England is one step closer to appointing its first female Archbishop of Canterbury now that the Bishop of Norwich, Graham Usher, has ruled himself out.

As a member of the Crown Nominations Commission (CNC) for the See of Canterbury, which is due to have its first meeting in May, Bishop Usher is ineligible for the post. After an election by the House of Bishops, he joins the Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, as the second episcopal member of the Canterbury CNC.

Bishop Usher said last week: *"Despite speculation in recent months, I have felt no sense of inner calling to be Archbishop of Canterbury. What has remained constant is God's continued faithful call to serve the people and parishes of the wonderful diocese of Norwich, as well as the national and international environmental roles I have, all of which bring me much joy."*

The road to Canterbury is therefore now open for the female front-runner, the Iranian-born Bishop of Chelmsford, Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani.



Her chances of being appointed to Canterbury this autumn got a significant boost in January when the Bishop of Dover, Rose Hudson-Wilkin, ruled herself out in a television interview. In an interview with ITV Meridian after the publication of her memoir, *The Girl from Montego Bay*, the C of E's first female black bishop said: *"You are definitely not looking at the next Archbishop of Canterbury. Who in their right mind would want to take on a role like that and in particular how we have just treated our Archbishop?"*

She said she did not believe Justin Welby should have resigned as Archbishop of Canterbury after the publication last November of the Makin Review into the John Smyth abuse scandal: *"I did not want Archbishop Justin to resign. I am very sad that he has resigned. I think that if we are not careful what we have done is to scapegoat one individual."*

Bishop Francis-Dehqani became a diocesan bishop in 2021, seven years after the then new Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, had managed to persuade General Synod to agree to women bishops. Like other ambitious female bishops such as the Bishop of Newcastle, Helen-Ann Hartley, she is not among the first generation of women bishops allowed into the House since 2014 and so does not have a sense of owing her position to male patronage.

She is a penetrating critic of the 'Vision and Strategy' programme which the Archbishops' Council has been spearheading to try to reverse the C of E's numerical decline through glitzy church growth initiatives.

In her plenary lecture last September at the Church Times Festival of Preaching at Great St Mary's in Cambridge, she said: *"The language of Vision and Strategy risks ignoring the reality of frailty, brokenness, sin - all of which can of course be redeemed, but it risks missing the blessings in that which is small and vulnerable and marginal. It leaves us relying heavily on our own strength, instead of remembering that everything depends on our faithfulness and our reliance upon God."*

She supports the revision of the biblical sexual ethic. In successive votes at General Synod since February 2023, she has consistently backed the introduction of services of same-sex blessings in parish churches.

Julian Mann is a former Church of England vicar, now an evangelical journalist based in Lancashire. He was writing in Christian Today.



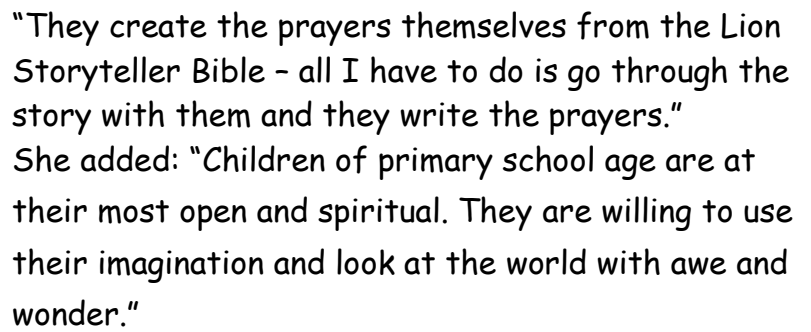
Let's Support our Primary School Children as they join in St Mary's Easter Experience Prayer Stations

On Thursday 27 April St Mary's will echo from 1.00pm onwards to afternoon with the sound of Year Five pupils from Capel Primary School.

The event will be Easter Prayer Stations, a unique happening at St Mary's since the various services are run entirely by the children. Inspired by Rev Sally over previous weeks, and conducted by Andrea Fisher, Head of Year Five and her teaching colleagues, the boys and girls will show a maturity of approach and commitment to faith that is deeply impressive.




Rev Sally explained: "The children know the Easter Story but I want them to devise their own stations. It is an opportunity for them to show their spirituality and openness to faith."



(right) The Prayer Tree

A large, colorful tree sculpture made of branches and many small, colorful handprints (red, yellow, blue, green) hanging from them, displayed in a room with a clock and a sign.



***Let's try a modern Hymn for
today - What a beautiful name is
.... Jesus***

[Click here to watch and play...](#)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CUBBIddm_rM



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COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS CAFÉ

*at St Mary's Church Hall has its next
meeting on Monday 21
April @ 2.00pm*

Rev Sally says:

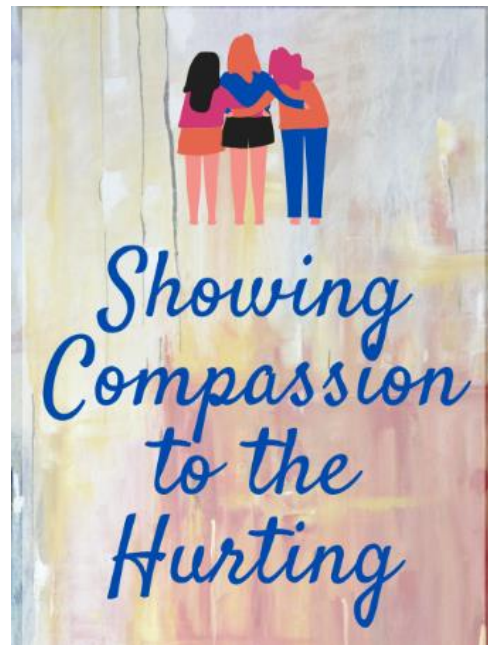
Our compassionate café has become the in-place to share our stories with each other, with people who

understand what it means to lose someone you love.

There is much chatting, laughter, reminiscing and cake enjoyed by all. The café enables us to help each other - and build a community together.

The next Café is on 21 April at 2.00pm. Do come and bring a friend.

You will leave feeling better! Rev Sally x



VE Day 80th Anniversary 2025

Walking through the History of Wenham & Raydon Airfield


A walk from St. John's Church, Gt. Wenham, to Raydon Airfield
giving an informative and fascinating insight into buildings
and sites used by the Americans during WWII


Guided by Dr. Graham Cross

Leading expert on USAAF 353rd Fighter Group

Saturday 3rd May

10.30 am - 12.30 pm

 Park and Meet at St. John's Church, Gt. Wenham
Light refreshments at church from 10am

 Return transport back to the church available

Contact

Sally Pearce

07703 281130

to book your place

**Booking
essential as
places limited**

**Suggested donation
of
£10 per person**

VE Day 80th Anniversary 2025

The Americans in Wenham & Raydon 1942-1945

presented by Dr. Graham Cross
(Leading expert on USAAF 353rd Fighter Group)

Saturday 3rd May
7 pm - 9 pm

King George's Pavilion
Raydon
IP7 5LT

Bar

Raffle

Incl. 3 signed books by the author Dr. Cross

£12 per person (incl. Light Refreshments)

Book Early as limited space available

To Book: www.ticketsource.co.uk/greatwenham
Tel: 03336 663366



Rev Natalie West, priest in charge, says:

There is no entry fee - but all donations will be welcome.
Refreshments will be available at Sproughton Beer Festival which
will be running at the same time.



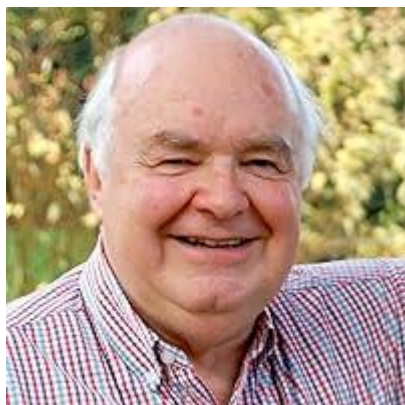
We would like all children and adults to please come dressed as a pirate or in a nautical themed costume.

There will be prizes for the dressed pirate and the best nautical costume!
Activities for children include face-painting, a treasure hunt and more...





We are here to help...



JOHN LENNOX – SOME MORE SELECTED QUOTES:

"He who has a why to live can bear almost any how."

— John C. Lennox, *Against the Flow: The inspiration of Daniel in an age of relativism*

"Czeslaw Milosz, who had reason to know, writes: "A true opium of the people is a belief in nothingness after death — the huge solace of thinking that for our betrayals, greed, cowardice, murders, we are not going to be judged." Thus, if God does exist, atheism can be seen as a psychological escape mechanism to avoid taking ultimate responsibility for one's own life."

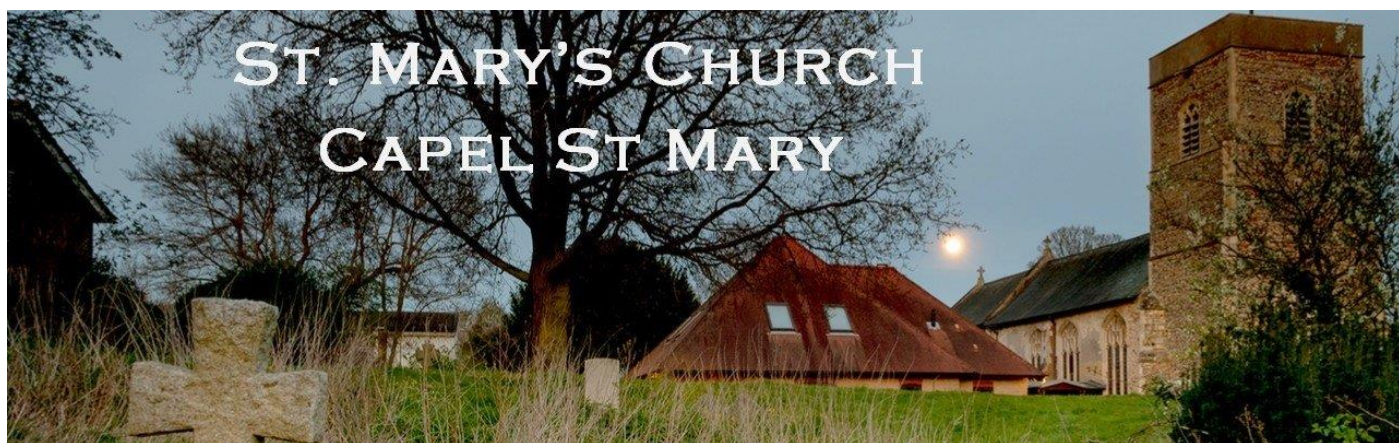
— John C. Lennox, *Gunning for God: Why the New Atheists are missing the target*

— John C. Lennox, *God's Undertaker: Has Science Buried God?*

— John C. Lennox, God's Undertaker: Has Science Buried God?

– John C. Lennox, Gunning for God: Why the New Atheists are missing the target

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ST MARY'S CHURCH EVENTS APRIL TO MAY 2025

Monday, 26 May 2025, 2.00pm	Compassionate Cafe
Sunday, 18 May 2025, 10.45am	Family Service led by Christina
Thursday, 8 May 2025, 12.00pm	VE Day Lighting of village beacon
Monday, 5 May 2025, 4.00pm	Brownies "Help Out" Day
Saturday, 3 May 2025, 10.00am	Walk round Raydon Airfield
Monday, 28 April 2025, 6.15pm	Brownies Earth Day in church
Sunday, 27 April 2025, 12.00pm	Pauls Osborne's interment of ashes
Monday, 21 April 2025, 2.00pm	Compassionate Cafe
Sunday, 20 April 2025, 10.45am	Easter Sunday service with choir
Saturday, 19 April 2025, 6.00pm	Easter Vigil
Friday, 18 April 2025, 3.00pm	Stations of the Cross
Friday, 18 April 2025, 9.30am	Easter Walk of Witness
Thursday, 17 April 2025, 6.30pm	Agape Meal & Altar stripping
Sunday, 13 April 2025, 10.45am	Palm Sunday & baptism of Lillia and Rosie
Sunday, 6 April 2025, 12.00pm	Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Friday, 4 April 2025, 10.00am	Capel Primary School Easter Service



In Loving Memory

IN MEMORIAM

With thanks to Trevor Bailey

3 April	Peter John Allbutt	2015
6 April	Hendricke Janna Gough	2005
8 April	Veronica Ann Hearne	2014
	Brian Grover	2020
10 April	Norman Dan Bennet	2020
11 April	Maurice George Mann	2012
	Ian Fraser	2020
12 April	Reginald Rooke	2003
13 April	Ray Quinn	2021
14 April	Jim Chamley	2008
15 April	Colin Maurice Burman	2002
21 April	Henry Butler	2009
22 April	Elizabeth Mary Stark	1998
23 April	Gerald James Sporle	1995
	Dennis Pearce	2005
24 April	Rose Agnes Dawson	2008
	Elvira Joan Simmonds	2013
	Doris Ella White	2016
25 April	Carl Harvey	2020
26 April	Margaret Joan Gilbert	2007
	James Harry Woodward	2010
28 April	Christine Grover	2020
29 April	Annie (Nancy) Evans	2002

*In Loving
Memory*



*In Loving
Memory*





PRAYER LIST FOR 6 APRIL 2025

We pray for all the conflicts in the world. Also we continue to pray for David Jacobs, still bravely travelling to Ukraine.
Continued prayer support please for Philip Morphy, the East Bergholt school chaplain,

LONG-TERM SICK AND HOUSEBOUND

Samantha Streatfield, Pat Gladwin,
Becky Carpendale, Rachel Martin,

SICK

Kevin Austrin, Zoe and family, Shirley Streatfield,
Penny & David Thompson, Rev Stephne.
Sandy Mansfield, Geoff Cox, Pauline Stark,
Andrew Skinner, Molly Johansen, Barbara Rogers, Doreen Parker, Eric Doe,
Malcolm & Chris Fenn.
Richard Heath

FOR THOSE MAKING A RECOVERY

Sylvia Lambert

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

Please contact Hille at hillepearz@gmail.com
If people have made a recovery



CONTACT NUMBERS FOR BENEFICE MINISTERS



Priest in Charge
311505

Rev Sally Letman

Church wardens

@ St Mary's

Mel Sutcliffe

310967

Valerie Franklin

314179

@ St John's

John Cresswell

311975

Diana Hunt

310441

Pastoral care

@ St Mary's

Hille Peartree

310146

PCC Secretary

@ St Mary's

Jenny Hickley

310991

Hall bookings

@ St Mary's

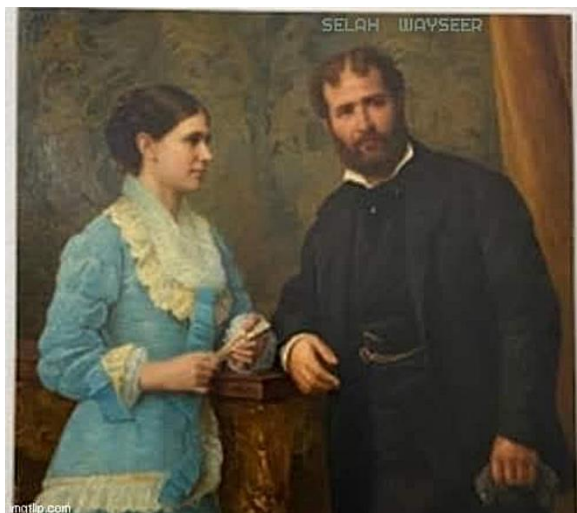
Valerie Franklin

314179

Check out our website: www.capelstmarychurch.org.uk



The editor is fascinated to learn that women spend more time thinking about what their men are thinking - than men spend thinking.....



My therapy dog after listening to all my problems.....





EDITOR'S NOTE

The Link Newsletter shall continue to be published electronically on a fortnightly basis - please let me know of any news or views you may have for inclusion in the magazine.

Please be sure to forward any items for news to the editor at:

briancrogerson@btinternet.com

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Kindly note that editorial and production attempts to reflect accurately all submissions; however apologies are readily offered for any errors in transmission.

All features & news items & opinions in The Link are introduced & published by the Editor and only the church service, readings and reflection and prayers are submitted & authorised by the Priest in Charge and the PCC officers unless otherwise highlighted in the text.



